

PRODUCE INSPECTOR

DEFINITION:

Under general direction, to inspect and verify production of fruits, nuts, vegetables, eggs, honey, and organic foods for compliance with applicable agricultural and health regulations; and to perform related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

Produce Inspector is an inspection class allocated only to the Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures. Incumbents in this class are responsible for inspecting and approving fruits, nuts, vegetables, eggs, honey, and organic foods that are grown, processed or handled for sale by packers, producers or retailers. This class series differs from the Agricultural/Standards Inspector series in that the latter inspects a wider variety of commodities, and measuring devices and requires multiple licenses.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:

Inspects fruits, nuts, vegetables, eggs, and honey; uses scales and other measuring devices to determine produce size and sugar content; collects information from trucking companies or public on produce and documents information; enforces regulations by identifying and tagging non-compliant produce and alerting State agencies; prepares forms and receipts for truckloads, reviews and approves documents, and maintains weekly and monthly records and logs; checks delivery documents and load containers for label and description accuracy, completeness, and conformance with State laws, regulations, and standards; interacts with packers, producers, wholesalers, handlers, retailers, and governmental agencies to provide/exchange information and to read, interpret, and apply regulations and handle problem situations; assists in training; investigates complaints regarding certified producers, organic foods, standardization and eggs; certifies produce stores or other retailers who comply with the Organic Food Act of 1990 by drawing samples of produce for pesticide residue and inspection of records; registers producers, handlers, or retailers who sell organic foods; testifies in court or administrative hearings during enforcement actions resulting from violations; interacts with federal and state agency representatives; and collects fees.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Knowledge of:

- Fruit, vegetable, and organic food physical characteristics.
- Organic Food Act and other related Federal/State agricultural regulations regarding produce health and safety.
- Quality, grades and standards for eggs and honey.
- Defects, tolerances and maturity of fruits and vegetables.
- Standard computer keyboard, scanner, and data entry equipment.

Skills and Abilities to:

- Inspect fruits, nuts, vegetables, eggs, honey, and organic foods.
- Use and maintain equipment such as refractometers and programmable scales.

- Prepare reports outlining inspection findings and results.
- Read, understand, and interpret Federal/State agricultural regulations regarding produce, eggs, honey, and organic food health and safety.
- Maintain records, logs, and files.
- Communicate effectively in oral and written form.
- Interact effectively with the public, staff, and Federal/State agency representatives.

EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE:

Education, training, and/or experience, which demonstrate possession of the knowledge, skills and abilities stated above. Examples of qualifying education/experience are:

1. Two (2) years of experience commercially growing, harvesting, grading, packing, selecting, or inspecting, fruits, nuts, eggs, honey, or vegetables; OR,
2. One (1) year of experience commercially growing, harvesting, grading, packing, selecting, or inspecting fruits, nuts, eggs, honey, or vegetables; AND, the completion of a minimum of eight (8) semester units from an accredited college or university in biology or a related field; OR,
3. Eighteen (18) semester units from an accredited college or university in a biological or agricultural science, or a related field.

SPECIAL NOTES, LICENSES, OR REQUIREMENTS:

License(s):

Must obtain and maintain two (2) Seasonal County Agricultural Inspector Standardization Licenses issued by the State of California Department of Food and Agriculture within one (1) year of appointment in designated areas. Must obtain at least one (1) additional license annually.

A valid California Class C driver's license or the ability to arrange transportation for field travel is required at time of appointment and must be maintained throughout employment. Employees in this class may be required to use their personal vehicle.

Note:

The ability to speak, read, and write Spanish is highly desirable.

Physical Requirements:

Lift boxes and bags weighing up to 50 pounds to pull out and inspect produce.

Probationary Period:

Incumbents appointed to permanent positions in this class shall serve a probationary period of 12 months (Civil Service Rule 4.2.5).

